

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 11-23, 25-32, 38-53, 55-65 and 67 are pending in this application. Claims 6-10, 24, 33-37, 54, and 66 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 18, 20, 21, 25, 26, 29, and 48-52 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Applicants note that Claims 1, 20, 21, 25, 26, 29, and 49-52 have been amended as to matters of form only and that those amendments do not narrow the scope of any of those claims. Claims 1, 11, 18, 26, 38, 46, 48, 56, 63-65 and 67 are in independent form.

First, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 1-5, 11-17, 26-32, 38-47, 56-65, and 67 and the indication that Claims 24, 25, 54 and 55 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form. As mentioned above, Claims 24 and 54 have been canceled, and their allowable subject matter has been incorporated into Claims 18 and 48, respectively. Applicants submit that Claims 18 and 48, and their dependent claims, are now believed to be allowable. Consequently, the prior-art rejections discussed in the Office Action directed to independent Claims 18 and 48, and their dependent claims, have been rendered moot and will not be discussed any further.

The abstract has been amended as to matters of form, to reduce its length below 150 words. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection related to the abstract.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and since the remaining claims are all allowable, Applicants respectfully request early passage to issuance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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